

Stellar Strata MK2

Firmware Upgrade Guide

What You Need to Start

- USB thumb drive
- The *strata2_vX.Y.Z.zip* file from the PS Audio website.
- Ensure your Stellar Strata MK2 is plugged in during the upgrade.

There are two methods to update firmware. The first method allows you put multiple versions on a USB thumb drive and select the version you want from the menus. The second method (the legacy method), allows you put a specific version on the thumb drive and update to that version without going into the menus.

Which file to use

- *strata2_vX.Y.Z.bin* - Use this if you are updating through the FW Update option in the system menus (see Method 1)
- *image.bin* – Use this if you are updating automatically from a thumb drive (see Method 2)

Method 1: FW Update through the System Menu

Prepare the thumb drive

- On your PC or Mac, unzip contents of the *strata2_vX.Y.Z.zip* file and copy the *strata2_vX.Y.Z.bin* file to your USB thumb drive. The X.Y.Z is the version of the software, for example, *strata2_v2.4.0.bin*
- You can have multiple versions on the thumb drive. They must all start with *strata2_* (see “Which file to use” section above) and have the version specified as *vX.Y.Z* as in the example above.
- Remove the thumb drive from your computer.
- Place the thumb drive in the back of the Stellar Strata MK2, in the slot marked FW.

FW Update from the System Menu

- After the unit has fully booted, enter the menus (long press the menu button).
- Scroll right to the System sub-menu.
- Press the center nav button to enter the System sub-menu.
- Scroll right to the FW Update screen.
- Scroll up/ down to select the version you want to update to
- Press the center nav button to select the file

- A status screen will appear with details of the FW Update process.
- The unit will reboot
- The Logo will be solid blue, then blink rapidly. It should blink around 25 to 30 times.
- The firmware will start, displaying the PS Audio splash screen.
- You can go back into the menus and scroll right to the Version screen to verify the new version is loaded.

Method 2: Upgrading using an image.bin file

Prepare the thumb drive

- On your PC or Mac, unzip contents of the [strata2 vX.Y.Z.zip](#) file and copy the image.bin file your USB thumb drive.
- Place the thumb drive in the back of the Stellar Strata MK2, in the slot marked FW.

Upgrade Main Firmware

- Using the front panel Logo LED button, place the unit in standby.
- Using the switch in the back of the unit, power the unit off, then power it back on.
- The Logo will be solid blue, then blink rapidly. It should blink around 25 to 30 times.
- The update will complete and the unit will immediately initialize.
- The main firmware has now been updated.
- PS Audio recommends you remove the thumb drive from the back of the unit

Troubleshooting

- In some cases, the unit may freeze on the PS Audio splash screen. If this happens, remove the USB drive from the back of the unit and power cycle the unit, then replace the USB drive if necessary.
- It is okay to leave the thumb drive in the unit. The unit will detect the firmware is the same and skip the update. However, PS Audio recommends that the USB thumb drive be removed during normal operation of the device.
- For Mac users, if the unit doesn't recognize your thumb drive, be sure to format it for FAT32 and not EXFAT.
- If nothing appears in the FW Update menu, try powering the unit off in the back, inserting the USB stick, then powering it back on and returning to the menu.